



July 2011

Newsletter

A message from the Commander's spouse to family members:

Dear Families On Point:

Wow! Last month was busy for everyone. Our Command went to Marine Week in St. Louis, held our annual Acquisition Excellence Day, hosted a fantastic Sunset Parade, had a fabulous time at Family Fun-Open House Day. These are just a few of the big events for June. To top this month off, our kids finished school and our families are heading out on vacations to spend some much-deserved fun time together. We truly are an amazing, busy Command!

We hope you were able to attend some of these June events, but if not, don't worry. Our next family event is July 28 at the Washington Nationals vs. Florida Marlins baseball game at Nationals Park. First pitch is at 12:35 p.m., and we are providing bus transportation from our Command to Nationals Park to make sure everyone gets there in time to see the first pitch. Get your tickets now. They are \$15 per ticket, and tickets are on sale until July 18. We hope you can come.

Last month we presented the idea of asking families in our Command to write a short "Get to Know Us" letter for "The Point." I'm pleased to let you know I have asked my husband, Frank, to write the first letter. I selfishly chose him for two reasons: I can edit everything he writes in case he claims he does the cooking and cleaning around our house, and – the real reason – he is so proud of our Command families and wants a chance to write to you. He will introduce our own personal family in his letter and also write to you about our Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) and Program Executive Officer Land Systems (PEO LS) family. If you want to volunteer to write a short letter about your family, let us know. We'd love to highlight your family in "The Point!"

That's it for now from me. Thank you for coming to Command events and activities. They really are a lot of fun. We are definitely communicating, connecting and caring in our Command. This is what our "Families On Point" program is all about – families being there for families. That's exactly what we are doing at MCSC-PEO LS.

Go Nats! Go Marlins! (I'd better not choose between the two teams because I heard some Program Manager Training Systems people are also attending this game.)

Have a wonderful summer,

Traci Kelley

Message from the Commander

Dear Families On Point:

My wife, Traci, asked me to write the first "Families On Point: Get to Know Us" letter this month.

First, a little about my personal family: I feel I must quickly dispel the myth that Traci says is out there. I do *not* do all of the cooking and cleaning at our house. I wouldn't dream of saying this as I would be in the doghouse for a long time! I have been known to fire up my grill occasionally so guests will think I do most of the cooking, but I'm really just showing off my "monster" grill that I received on Father's Day a couple of years ago.

Traci and I have six children ages 11-13 years old. Yes, the math doesn't quite add up, I know. We have one 11-year-old son, four 12-year-old quadruplets (two girls, two boys) and one 13-year-old son. They keep us quite busy with school, sports and various other activities. We enjoy tennis, museums, traveling and most any sporting event as a family. As you can imagine, there is a fair amount of competition between all of us, so everyone tends to work and play very hard. I have been in the Marine Corps for over 28 years, and we have moved 19 times. We seem to love every place we live, whether desert or city, and love the D.C. area, too. We are often found in area museums and sights on weekends.

I am an avid Notre Dame fan and will uphold their honor at all gatherings (Traci says "at all costs"), but Traci graduated from East Carolina University and likes the Pirates. Our kids, of course, like their own teams, so there is a lot of rivalry during games. Overall, we just enjoy being together as a family doing the things that make it so special for us.

Second, my Marine Corps Systems Command and Program Executive Officer Land Systems family: We came back to Hospital Point in 2009, and we are so proud to be part of our Command family. Our Command is a highly motivated workforce with unbelievable caring families. Together we are accomplishing great things for our Marines and Sailors on the front lines. I strongly believe in our mission to equip the warfighter, and I am very proud to come to work each day to see the fantastic things our Command is achieving. It is *all* of us pulling together that get the job done. I can tell you we are doing exactly that. Keep doing what you do – it matters and you matter. We are truly honored to be part of such a wonderful Command.

Go, Nats! (I *can* choose my team, unlike Traci.)

Frank Kelley

Community Services tri-fold subscription available

Did you know you can receive a monthly e-mail of Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) events and information? To receive this tri-fold via e-mail, send your contact information to mccsmarketing@USMC-MCCS.org, or call (703) 784-5803. You can also sign-up online at their website: www.Quantico.USMC-MCCS.org.

This monthly e-mail gives you updated information about monthly base events, the Exchange, Clubs, Library, Exceptional Family Member Program, Family Advocacy Program, Physical Fitness, Family Readiness and Support Programs, and much more. It is a great resource of family information and one you will want to receive each month. Sign up to receive it today.

Quantico Family Advocacy Program offerings

For more information on these programs, call (703) 784-2570. Classes are held in Little Hall, Classroom 2. Please pre-register.

Men's Group: 1-3 p.m. July 6 13, 20 and 27 for Groups 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Topics for the classes include:

Communication and Relationship: 9-11 a.m. July 11. Various communication styles, identification of communication myths that get us into trouble and practical suggestions to help ensure the other person totally understands what the participants are saying.

Core Issues: 1-3 p.m. July 11, 18, and 25. Identifying thought patterns, cycles of conflict, alternative to power struggles and vicious cycles, managing emotions, core beliefs, family of origin issues and relaxation techniques.

Stress Management: 9-11 a.m. July 13. Individual stress factors handout, insight on the power of positive thinking and stress reduction techniques.

Anger Management: 9-11 a.m. July 15. Recognize sources and triggers of anger and learn coping techniques in order to express anger more effectively (with successful results).

First Lady urges Hollywood to tell military family stories

The entertainment industry can help to shine the light on military families by incorporating their compelling stories into movies and television, First Lady Michelle Obama said during a panel discussion hosted by the entertainment guilds in Los Angeles.

DOD libraries launch summer reading program

Defense Department libraries have launched a summer reading program in the hopes of inspiring children -- and adults -- of all ages to read throughout the summer.

DOD program inspires kids to read

The day after school let out for the summer, I raced to find activities to fill those long, lazy days of summer for my 2-, 7- and 9-year-old.

VA works to provide post-9/11 family caregiver benefits

A month after the Veterans Affairs Department began processing applications for primary family caregivers of eligible post-9/11 veterans, officials report steady progress toward delivering the new services and benefits.

Military spouses get help with professional licenses

A Defense Department organization is making it easier for military spouses to maintain professional licenses as they move from state to state.

Dr. Biden urges industry to support military families

Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, called on the cable television industry to use its vast reach to help educate the public about military families and rally national support for “the very best of our country.”

Tips to ease summertime moves

As our seasoned military families are keenly aware, the end of the school year typically marks the start of a high-volume moving season.

Partnership links military spouses with employers

The Defense Department has launched a new partnership that’s intended to expand job opportunities for military spouses by connecting them with employers actively seeking to hire them.

Program opens doors to spouse employment

With multiple moves and deployments to contend with, military spouses face considerable challenges when it comes to maintaining or advancing their careers.

Spouses praise new employment program

I attended the launch of the Defense Department’s Military Spouse Employment Partnership at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C. Through this new program, officials hope to expand career opportunities for military spouses worldwide, and to recognize the numerous job skills and talents they bring to the table.

First Lady salutes troops, families in Vermont

National Guard and reserve members and their families deserve the thanks and support of a grateful nation, first lady Michelle Obama said in Vermont.